Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0687

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

INFO USMTM DHAHRAN

USCINCEUR

COE RIYADH

SANG P.O. RIYADH

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 2109

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR. SA

SUBJECT: COMMAND AND CONTROL OF DOD AGENCIES IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: A. USMTM DHAHRAN DTG 081232 MAR 75

B. USCINCEUR DTG 071423Z MAR 75

1. EMBASSY VIEWS ON RECOMMENDATION PARA 3 REFTELS FOLLOW:

A. A. TRANSFER SOCP TO ARMY TAFT UNDER USMTM SUPERVISION: WE ARE RELUCTANT TO TAMPER WITH A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION BUT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE IF CHANGE COULD BE MADE WITHOUT DISRUPTING PROGRAM EFFICIENCY. COE HAS HANDLED PROGRAM EXTREMELY WELL AND WE BELIEVE THEIR VIEWS ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH TRANSITION SHOULD BE GIVEN GREAT WEIGHT.

B. PLACE DET 22 UNDER USAF TAFT: WE ENDORSE THIS PGOPOSAL.

C. PLACE SANG UNDER USMTM AS SEPARATE TAFT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE CONFIDENTIAL

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TO SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD (WHICH IS ENTIRELY

INDEPENDENT OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE) AND WE WOULD NOT WISH TO ADVOCATE THIS PGOPOSAL. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS BELOW.

- D. TRANSFER USMTM COMMUNICATIONS TO 5TH SIGNAL COMMAND: NO OBJECTION.
- 2. EMBASSY'S PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IS THAT COMMAND LINES REMAIN AS DIRECT AND CLEAR AS POS-SIBLE, TO INSURE QUICK RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION. SANG PROJECT OFFICE'S DIRECT LINE TO ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND, FOR IN-STANCE, HAS RESULTED IN SMOOTH-RUNNING EFFICIENT PGOGRAM ADMINISTRATION ABLE TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO CHANGING CONDITIONS. WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED BY TAMPERING WITH THE ARRANGEMENT. SIMILARLY, COE CHAIN THROUGH MEDDIV TO WASHINGTON ON CONSTRUCTION MATTERS IS HIGHLY RESPONSIVE. IN-COUNTRY, ALL PROGRAM DIRECTORS RECOGNIZE PRE-EMINENT POSITION OF CHIEF OF USMTM AS SENIOR U.S. MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE IN SAUDI ARABIA, WORK-ING UNDER AMBASSADOR'S OVERALL DIRECTION, AND ALL PROGRAM CHIEFS PARTICIPATE IN MONTHLY MILITARY BRIEFINGS OF AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF. THESE INFORMAL BRIEFINGS HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE VERY WORKABLE ARRANGEMENT DURING LAST YEAR AND SERVE TO INSURE THAT MILITARY OFFICES AND EMBASSY WORK IN CONCERT.
- 3. WE DO BELIEVE CHUSMTM NEEDS AUTHORITY TO COORDINATE SUPPORT OPERATIONS(COMMUNICATIONS, COMMISSARY, PX, APO, ETC.) REQUIRED BY ALL U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY. OPERATIONALLY, HOWEVER, EMBASSY CONSIDERS PRESENT COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS SATISFACTORY. WE SEE NO PRACTICAL ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED BY SUBORDINATION OF SANG AND COE TO USMTM.

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